CLASSIFICATION

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

REPORT

COUNTRY

USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 1946

SUBJECT

Scientific - Medical; Biographical

HOW

**PUBLISHED** 

Mon'mly periodical

DATE DIST. 3 Oct 1950

WHERE

PUBLISHED

NO. OF PAGES

DATE

**PUBLISHED** 

1946

Moscov

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

Russian

REPORT NO.

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Westnik Akademii Meditsinskikh Nauk SSSR, No 1, 1946

## BORIS IL'ICH ZBARSKIY -- LAUREATE OF THE STALIN PRIZE

Prof A. Sharpenak

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR has awarded Boris Il'ich Zbarskiy, Active Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, the title of Hero of Socialist Labor, the Order of Lenin, the "Sickle and Hammer" silver medal, the Order of the Labor Red Banner, and the Order "Badge of Honor.'

Zbarskiy was graduated from the University of Geneva in 1911, and successfully defended his dissertation on the subject "Influence of Acids and Alkali on Oxidation Ferments," for which he received the degree of Doctor of Chemical Sciences. In 1915, during World War I, he developed an original method of obtaining chloroform for narcosis which made it possible to supply the Russian army with domestically produced chloroform.

In his scientific work, devoted to the study of metabolism, he gave most attention to the study of proteins. He established that erythrocytes are the carriers of amino acids as well as of oxygen. Having made this discovery he began to study its practical possibilities. On the basis of this newly discovered phenomenon he studied the mechanism for the formation of antitoxing in the organism, and the mechanism for the fur-tioning of antimalarial preparations.

An example of Zbarskiy's endeavor to combine theory and practice is his work, and that of his students, devoted to the study of the chemical distribution in the human body. Having established that the amino acid composition of proteins of various organs and tissues undergoes a change during certain illnesses, Zbarskiy strove to use this data to develop methods of diagnosing these illnesses. The results of the work of the (Central Institute of Nutrition, founded and directed by Zbarskiy for many years, are well known in the USSR and in foreign countries. Zbarskiy and the late Academician V. P. Vorob'yev are credited with the embalming of Lenin. In addition to being an outstanding scientist, he also has gained recognition one a pedagogue, lecturer, and organizer of scientific research institutes and institutions. He founded the Central Scientific Research

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Institute of Nutrition which is now in the Academy of Medical Sciences; he played an important part in the organization of the Physico-Chemical Institute imeni Karpov and Biochemical Institute imeni A.N. Bakh. His organizational abilities were displayed in the organization of the pedagogical work at the Chair of Biological and Organic Chemistry of the Second Moscow Medical Institute, which graduates about 1,880 students each year. Zbarskiy organized: the first vitamin committee of the People's Commissariat of Public Health USSR, and later became its permanent chairman. As chairman of this committee, he was instrumental in the rapid development of the science of vitamins in the USSR.

Zbarskiy was, for many years, the USSR representative in the Commission on Nutrition of the Committee of Hygiene of the League of Nations, Furthermore, he founded the journals <a href="Problemy Pytaniye">Problemy Pytaniye</a> and <a href="Zhurnal Eksperimental">Zhurnal Eksperimental</a>'-noy, <a href="Blologii i Meditsiny">Blologii i Meditsiny</a>, and <a href="for many years">for many years</a> was their chief editor.

For many years prior to World War II, Zbarskiy pointed out that the organization of nutrition of the Red Army on a strictly scientific basis would substantially raise the defense potential of the USSR. Between 1931 and 1935, a group of scientific workers selected by and working under the supervision of Zbarskiy, developed nutrition standards for all branches of the Red Army. Zbarskiy used this material to publish a collection entitled, Spravochnik po Pytaniye Krasnoy Armii (Mandbook on Nutrition of the Red Army). The standards indicated in the handbook were adopted by the Red Army.

According to <u>Spravochnik Akademii Meditainskikh Nauk SSSR</u> (Handbook for the Academy of <u>Medical Sciences USSR</u>), 1946, other positions hold by Zbarskiy included: member of Presidium, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR; member of the Bureau, Department of <u>Medical Sciences</u>, Academy of Medical Sciences; member of Scientific Council, Institute of Nutrition, Department of Hygiene, Microbiology, and Epidemiology, Academy of Medical Sciences. According to <u>Vestnik Akademii Meditainskikh Nauk SSSR</u>, No 2, 1948, he was chairman of the Nutrition Commission, Presidium, Academy of Medical Sciences.

At present, Zbarskiy heads the Chair of Biochemistry at the First Moscow Medical Institute. The laboratories of the Chair of Biochemistry are conducting intensive scientific work. Zbarskiy and his school also are concerned with the problem of cancer.

Many of Zbarskiy's students who mastered the pedagogical and organizational methods of their teacher are heads of chairs in higher educational institutions all over the USSR (Professors I. I. Ivanov, S. R. Mardatsev, and others).

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